

Letters from our Sustainers

This spot in the Guardian Sustainer will be reserved for your letters every month. Try to keep them as brief as possible. All letters will be printed with the author's initials but you must send in the communication with your full name.

WHITE CHAUVINISM

R. Stone, Los Angeles: I wish to commend the Guardian for the numerous recent articles discussing the correct approach to the struggle against racism, and in particular the recent debate over the Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center's (OCIC) "campaign against white chauvinism."

The supporters of the OCIC's campaign have defended it by asserting that the campaign's opponents are white and petty-bourgeois and they resist coming to grips with their own chauvinism and consequently "run away" from the campaign. Aside from being empirically incorrect (many minorities in the antirevisionist, antidogmatist party building movement oppose the campaign) these assertions cloud the central issue in the debate. That is, while the campaign's supporters hold that the principal obstacle to multiracial communist unity is ideological (white chauvinism), the campaign's opponents hold that the problem is principally political, involving the development of a line and program that can guide the antiracist struggle.

What the rhetoric of the OCIC also seeks to hide is that the campaign itself stems from the crises of the fusion party building line. The fusion line which has guided the development of the OCIC since its inception has faltered in its attempt to push forward any of the main aspects of party building, such as the development of revolutionary theory, cadre

formation, communist unification and even developing the influence of communism in the working class movement. With the OCIC's influence receding, and being wracked by internal opposition, the leadership had two choices: to change its political line or to find a solution to the crises within the fusion line. It chose the latter.

From the standpoint of the fusionist the analysis of the crises of the OCIC also reveals the line guiding the white chauvinism campaign. Simply put, "the communists, who tend to be white and petty-bourgeois, have failed in the task of fusing with the advanced workers, who tend to be minorities, principally due to the communist movement's failure to proletarianize its ideology (eradicate white chauvinism) which would enable it to become more attractive to the advanced."

The unfortunate irony of the "campaign against white chauvinism" is that the campaign is failing to even meet its stated objective of eliminating white chauvinism, a very real and significant problem. The OCIC's practice of calling upon its cadre to repeatedly amplify and "deepen" self-criticisms of racist attitudes without any regard to their magnitude, practical impact, or even validity has served more to instill and reinforce such attitudes than to eradicate them. Furthermore the articulations of racist attitudes emanating from the campaign have taken on such a grotesque and exotic, not to mention unscientific character

(e.g. white chauvinist conspiracy) as to repel minority and white communists rather than attract them to the OCIC.

KEEP THE STRENGTH

S. H., Washington, D.C.: I'm enclosing the first half of my annual pledge.

Keep up the good work. It's important for the working class and other progressive and democratic forces not only in this country but in other parts of the world as well.

Let's keep up the strength and spirit of revolutionary forces such as the Guardian struggling and leading toward a new society.

LEFT COVERAGE

L.S., Oakland, Calif.: I got laid off this summer but through concerted, unified action our union won a significant—though limited—victory and got 150 custodians reinstated to 12 months work.

In response to your plans for expanding your left coverage: good! But don't forget that the movement is built best on strong foundations. You should cover extensively and critically groundswell (non-"leftist") activity whether among unions, the unorganized or national minorities.

Guardian Tours media blitz

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people interested in travel to unusual far-off places, liberals but not necessarily leftists.

3. How much can you afford: What is your promotion budget? A Madison Ave. budget can turn the most insignificant product into an important event. But at the financially strapped Guardian, each promotional dollar had to be proven effective. We set a goal of spending under \$1000 (which we've already earned back) and in the end spent slightly over that amount. The largest expenses were for